

In sending specimens of plants for investigation it is desirable to include the entire plant; if it is too large, portions showing leaves, flowers, and fruit are sufficient. It is best to prepare the specimens by drying them under pressure between folds of absorbent paper, otherwise the parts may shrink and break so as to be hardly recognizable. When dried plants are sent they should be protected from breakage in the mail by being inclosed in sheets of paper between pieces of stiff pasteboard. If specimens are to be sent fresh, moisten them slightly and pack them tightly in a box or in a bundle, wrapping them in heavy paper. Packages weighing less than four pounds can be sent by mail at the rate of one cent per two ounces. Write the name of the sender on the outside. In the letter accompanying the specimens state where each plant was collected, the date, the name of the collector, and add any other notes in regard to the economic value of the plant.

U. S. Department of Agriculture,
Botanical Division,

Washington, D. C., April 30 1891.

Forestiera pubescens,

Professor Serrin Watson,
Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Sir:

I send, with this, at Dr. Vasey's suggestion, a Texan shrub, over which I have worked for several days, at different times, without being able to locate the plant even in a family. It seems to belong near Ilex or Rhamnus. But it goes into none of Benthams and Hooker's Genera in this region. Dr. Vasey, as you may infer, does not recognize it. Prof. Coulter, who was here some time ago, looked it over for an hour, but could make nothing out of it. Nor could Prof. Britton, who was here at another time. It probably is known by you at sight. At least, I wish you would look it over, including my first draft of the description, which I enclose. I send you also some wood of the shrub. You may keep all, if you desire.

Very truly yours,

John D. Holzinger,
Assistant.

If you are very busy, simply look at it, and tell me whether you recognize it.